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Members of the ' menial ' staff in various hospitals in the Province.

* 53 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the members of the ' menial ' staff employed in the various hospitals in the province are treated as salaried employees whose salaries are drawn on regular monthly pay bills;

(*b*) whether they are governed by leave rules applicable to other Government servants;

(*c*) whether the leave reserve maintained is sufficient so as not to dislocate work in hospitals when any member of the staff is forced to absent himself from duty owing to illness or other causes; and

(*d*) whether the medical officers are empowered to sanction leave with salary for the period eligible when at least the absence is unavoidable?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" (*a*) The pay of totis is drawn on regular establishment bills. The pay of other menial servants is drawn on monthly contingent bills.

" (*b*) The answer is in the negative. Special leave rules have been framed for menials.

" (*c*) There is no leave reserve for the menial staff.

" (*d*) Medical officers can grant leave to the extent as indicated below:—

(1) Hospital leave on half pay for a period not exceeding six months in any one term of three years when menials fall ill

(2) Female totis and attendants and servants in Government hospitals are eligible for maternity leave.

(3) The following leave concessions are granted to menials who have completed five or more years of service:—

(i) Earned leave at the rate of one-twenty-second of duty subject to the condition that leave shall cease to be earned if such leave amounting to thirty days is at credit.

During the earned leave, full pay will be admissible, if no substitute is appointed; otherwise, such leave salary not being less than one-half and not exceeding two-thirds of pay as may be fixed by the authority granting leave, may be given.

(ii) Extraordinary leave (i.e., leave without salary) may be granted without limit.

The above concessions are admissible to menials employed in Government hospitals in the City and in the District Headquarters Hospitals."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—" May I know whether the Government have under their consideration the question of

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the drawal of salaries of all employees in the hospital on monthly pay bills instead of drawing salaries for some of them on contingent bills?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI :—" The proposal is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether any discrimination is made in regard to service conditions on account of the classifications such as menials, contingent labour and so forth?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI :—" Those who are employed on the contingent labour basis do not have the same privileges with regard to status and pay as those enjoyed by the permanent people."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister why they are treated as contingent labour when their employment is of a continuous and permanent character and they are paid monthly salaries and regarded as salaried employees?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI :—" Yes, Sir, it is true, there are those who have served as continuous labour for nearly thirty years and there are others who come under contingent labour. The Government are considering the question of removing the invidious distinctions as between these two classes of people, continuous labour and contingent labour."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister will consider the question of admitting the interim relief of Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 which is now denied under present orders, to these contingent labour people?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI :—" I am not quite sure whether so far as interim relief to all non-gazetted officers is concerned, it will be applicable to the contingent labour; anyway, the suggestion made by the hon. Member will be borne in mind."

Power-houses in Kurnool and Cuddapah.

* 54 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the machinery in the power-houses in Kurnool and Cuddapah broke down recently;

(*b*) whether even the water-supply of the town was affected;

(*c*) what steps the Government propose to take not only to set right the existing state of affairs but also to avoid their recurrence;

(*d*) whether it is not desirable that the Government define the policy they propose to adopt towards municipal or other supplies of electricity to ensure regular and uninterrupted supply of power; and